

MilAtari Limited Edition

Vol. X, No. 3
March 1991

This Month: General Meeting

Sat., March 16th, 12:00 Noon
Greenfield Park Lutheran
Church
1236 S. 115th St., West Allis

Exec. Board Meeting

Sun., March 24th, 7:00pm
Shakey's
9638 W. National Ave.

Next Month: General Meeting

Sat., April 20th, 12:00 Noon
Greenfield Park Lutheran
Church
1236 S. 115th St., West Allis

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Michelle Gross

From the President

Atari On the Move?

In a move by Atari Corp. to broaden the US userbase, Atari now distributes the 1040STe and Mega STe line through national distribution channels, rather than directly through the dealership avenues of the past.

What this means is that national distributors are free to set up standards for dealers, which are often more relaxed than Atari had set for its own dealers prior to this move. A small local computer shop may be able to order smaller numbers of computers, rather than a fixed minimum order. This can only be good news for us, as users and user group members. Hopefully, this move will put more STs in the hands of more enthusiasts.

You may have also noticed the competitive pricing on the STe's. While I am encouraged by the pricing nationally, I remind you that we have local dealers within our city, and if you are interested in keeping our dealers, be sure to pay them a visit and allow them the opportunity to take care of your computing needs.

On the home front, I am pleased to report that the nominating committee has been formed for the fast approaching April election. Tom Bardenwerper chairs the committee, with Carl Verbanac and Dennis Wilson as members. Anyone wishing to run for office, President, ST Vice-president, 8-bit Vice-president, Secretary, or Treasurer, or anyone wishing to nominate another member should see one of the committee members, or give them a call. Their numbers are all listed inside the cover of the newsletter.

Finally, GEN CON is ahead, and anyone wishing to serve on the committee to organize the event should see me. Also, think about donating some time to this year's event, which will run from August 8 through the 11th. Though the hot dog days of August may seem far away now, they'll be here before you know it.

See you at the meeting!

Michelle



MilAtari Supports Our Troops In The Persian Gulf

Hope you're home by the time our
members read this issue

MilAtari Ltd.

The Milwaukee Area
Atari Users Group
Post Office Box 14038
West Allis, WI 53214

Membership in MilAtari Ltd. is open to all individuals and families interested in personal computing. Annual dues are \$20.00 for individuals, \$25.00 per family and includes a one year subscription to this newsletter and access to club libraries. Membership applications may be obtained at the monthly meeting or by writing to the club Secretary at the above address.

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Terri Borchardt

Telegram

Mfg: D.A. Brumleve
 Type: ST Educational
 Rating: Recommended

As an elementary school teacher with a strong interest in music, I was very excited to find the program "Telegram", and I wasn't disappointed. In the program the player essentially delivers singing telegrams to one of 48 people or animals shown on the screen. After you choose who will send a telegram from the pictures of such notables as Burpo the clown, Kitty, Fido and a host of other characters, the screen shows a map of a village of 31 separate residences and directs you to deliver the telegram to one of them, using coordinates. A car on the screen can be directed using the keyboard, and a click of the mouse then rings the doorbell.

If you ring the wrong doorbell the screen flashes WRONG ADDRESS several times and returns you to the beginning of the process. If you ring the right doorbell but don't park in front of the door, a siren sounds and PARKING TICKET flashes on the screen, but your delivery continues. The screen then changes to a friendly letter, with the receiver's picture at the top and the sender's at the bottom. A familiar tune (one of thirteen classics such as Frosty, Twinkle Twinkle Little Star, etc.), begins to play and the words turn red to correspond with the tune, reminiscent of the bouncing ball sing-alongs of days gone by. The letters are cute, age appropriate and often humorous.

My favorite part is the closing, which usually relates somehow to the body of the letter. For example, in a letter about swatting a creepy crawler (to the tune of Itsy Bitsy Spider, of course), the closing is RAIDantly,

and in a letter about an ill-fated tuba recital, it closes with Tu-bad. The letters can also be printed out, and no matter which character sent that particular telegram, the player's name (which was entered at the beginning of the game) is inserted at the close of the letter. Also, the greeting is then omitted and the word Telegram appears across the top instead.

"I think Telegram is a delightful program, and it successfully integrates many different skills."

I think Telegram is a delightful program, and it successfully integrates many different skills. Children can learn how to write a short letter just by playing the game. Most children are familiar with the tunes and will readily sing along, thereby enforcing their reading skills. Taking the car to the correct destination requires using numerical and alphabetical coordinates which is a skill needed in mathematics.

The tunes are very lively and appealing, and children most likely won't even realize the educational value of the game, so they will learn in spite of themselves. The music also causes both left brain and right brain involvement which according to many studies greatly enhances learning.

With the print-out feature, the letters could actually be sent to someone as they are, or they could be easily modified to fit the circumstances. What a nice way for a child to send a thank-you note to Great Aunt Nellie! With a little parental

prompting, playing Telegram might create interest in letter writing, so then it's time to put Kid Publisher Professional(also by D.A. Brumleve) into action and have your child do some creative letter writing of his/her own.

The program says reading ability is required, but my five year old non-reader has fun playing. She has mastered the coordinates, and enjoys the tunes; she sings her own words or just hums along. I think she will grow right into the program. He would probably deny it, but my eleven year old has also been spotted playing Telegram.

I think Telegram would be most popular with six to nine year olds, and probably more appealing to girls than boys; although if they give it a chance, most boys would enjoy the content of the letters and maybe even singing along.

As with other D.A. Bruleve programs I've seen, there is a very generous copyright policy. You are encouraged to make copies for each child in the family, and schools are encouraged to make a copy for each student.

In closing, I would definitely recommend this program to families with children ages five through eleven.

Musically Yours,

Terri Borchardt

Bill Selle

TIPS ON DESKTOP PUBLISHING REVEALED

Atari Computers, with their speed and simplicity, are naturals for an ever-growing segment of computer applications, desktop publishing (DTP). With a few keystrokes or mouse button clicks, one can create reports, flyers, or newsletters with print shop quality. It gives a new dimension of clarity and professionalism to otherwise ordinary documents, and it can be easy, too!

These DTP skills are not inbred in most individuals and need developing. But where to begin? One answer is the "Introduction to Design For Desktop Publishing" by Wayne and Ruth Kiser and distributed by Fliptrak Learning Systems. It is an impressive package of 8 audio cassettes, illustrated study guide, type font gauge, paper samples, and a color chart. It

could be called "a teacher in a box." It is available at some major bookstores and at the Milwaukee Public Library.

The study guide contains hands-on exercises, useful design aids, step-by-step checklists for the various publications one encounters, and plenty of examples. These are augmented by the cassettes to instruct the DTP student in:

- * basic design principles.
- * typeface identification.
- * laying out text.
- * formats and styles for ads, newsletters, reports, etc.
- * selecting a print shop and judging their quality.

There are two advantages to this unique learning tool. The first is that no specific computer system is mentioned or highlighted. All this apckage does is teach good design habits and techniques. The second is that unlike a tutor, the taped lessons can be stopped and played over and over until the lesson is learned.

My exposure to DTP began almost 3 years ago and was learned strictly from imitating examples such as newspapers and magazines. The process was trial-and-error, took a lot of time, and began with some frightening output. I'm sure it would have been a less painful process if I had access to this package back then. Even now, I picked up some good tips from this fine source of instruction. Current and potential DTPers are recommended to seek this out to get good guidance on a tricky application.

Lee Musial

Copyright Library Update

Notice

Because of the new law that has been recently passed by our Congress, it is no longer legal for this club to lend out copyrighted software. Your Board of Directors have given much time and thought to this issue. The first decision that we have made is that the Copyright Library would be "frozen" for a period of time, no longer than 6 months (June 1991) so that no hasty decisions would be made.

Since that time there has been much discussion about MilAtari opening up a "Software Store." It has been proposed that this software exchange will be run as a separate function within the club, that is the

store must be self sufficient, and not depend on club general revenues.

The store will be open during club meetings, just as the public domain is now available for sale. You will be purchasing the software as is, just as you would at a swapfest. It will be up to the Copyright Librarian as to what software would go up for sale.

Remember, we need a lot of the ST software for GEN CON in August, so what software would go up for sale would depend on what would be needed for GEN CON.

A Reference Library will also be started that will contain software that would not go up for sale but instead would be kept for club uses (GenCon,

SIG's, demos, etc.). The money that will be generated by this "Software Store" will then be used to buy other used software which in turn will be sold to you, the members of MilAtari! Of course, the store "operator" will always be on the look out for good bargains in used software. We believe this concept is a new way to provide the membership of MilAtari with yet another valuable service.

If there are any suggestions or questions in regard to this, I can be reached at home at 462-7557 or on the MilAtari BBS.

Lee Musial

Copyright Librarian

Dennis Wilson

ST PD Update

MilAtari Ltd. ST Public Domain Library Disks are available at the meeting at a price of \$3.50 per disk, and through mail order at \$4.00 per disk. The charge for the disks covers the cost of the media and handling, with all proceeds going to support the activities of MilAtari Ltd.

Some of the programs on these disks have been released as shareware and are so documented in the programs themselves. MilAtari Ltd. supports the shareware concept and you are encouraged to make donations to the individual authors should you find their programs useful.

The MilAtari PD Libraries are intended to provide a repository for useful and interesting programs, and each file is tested before inclusion on the disk. We believe that each file is worthy of your consideration. No warranty is expressed nor implied, however, as to their content or usability. Defective disks will be gladly replaced. These disks are made available for sale at the monthly club meeting and may be ordered in advance by posting a message in the Library Lounge on the club BBS. Librarians of other clubs are encouraged to contact our ST Librarian concerning trading of programs in their respective libraries.

DISK 306 - UTILITY DISK (DS)

50HZBOOT: A program for use when running some European software. Put this program in an AUTO folder on a disk and then run the program.

CAL_DATE: Calendar Month Display - A calendar and date program which lets you set the date and time on your ST. It combines this with a calendar program and an alarm clock. Set your ST's clock by moving the hands on the displayed analog clock. Current month with today's date highlighted, plus prior and next month's calendar shown.

C_BURST2: Color Burst II Ver 1.3 - A color painting program for the STs, Megas, and the STE. The author stated that 3200 shades are available in low resolution and 800 in medium resolution. Colors are set using a control panel-like display.

DCMAXTRK: DC Max Track - A program to use for quickly determining how many tracks your floppy disk drive can handle. The program formats a disk from track 74 up, so have a blank disk handy when using the program.

DCSHOHEX: DC Show Hex - A program that lets you view and search data in your system

memory. For ease of use, input is supported through both the keyboard and the mouse. In addition, simple integration into the DC Desktop environment is implemented.

DISKCOPY: A "intelligent" disk copier. That is, it reads the source disk to see how it is formatted. It then formats the destination disk in the same way. One megabyte of Ram required.

DISKEDIT: Diskedit Ver 1.08 - A sector editor for repairing damaged disks. The documentation file contains a tutorial on disk layout and step-by-step hints on how to repair damaged disks.

FLXIFAST: Flexi-fast - A program which modifies executable program files so that they may be "fast loading" under TOS 1.4 and above.

FORMAT2X: Multi-Disk, Multi-Drive Formatter - A program which lets you format using both disk drives, either alternately, or both at once. Thus you can put two disks in, hit Return and go do something useful while they format. Note that it therefore requires two disk drives to use.

READER: Load a text file into this program and listen to your computer talk to you!

STWRITER: St Writer Elite Ver 3.8 - The program which many consider to be best word processor for the ST.

ST_LABEL: ST Label - A program for making mailing and disk labels. Prints in either pica or elite.

SYS_INFO: Atari ST System Information Ver 1.02 - A program which gives the following information about your system: 1) TOS version, 2) Amount of your computer's Ram, 3) Free Ram available, 4) Whether system verify is set, 5) The floppy seek rate, 6) What drives are connected, 7) Current resolution, and 8) System time and date. This information may be dumped to your printer.

TURTLE: Turtle Ver 3.2 (Dec 1990) - A number of bugs have been fixed from the prior version, the most important being that the program now senses the version of TOS in the system and treats the archive bit accordingly, for both incremental backups and archive bit updates. In other words, it now works properly with TOS 1.4.

DISK 307 - GAME DISK (DS)

CHASE: A first person, cockpit-view shoot-em-up with vector graphics.

GUARDIAN: IBS Guardian - A game similar to the many

ST PD Update
from previous page.

Star Trek PD games. This one is a more advanced version of the Starsearcher game which is also on this disk. This ship has 3 decks to the Starsearcher's one, and two shuttle bays to the Starsearcher's one. One keystroke commands are featured.

SEARCHER: IBS Starsearcher - Your selection as captain of this Inter-galactic BattleShip testifies to your abilities as a commander and guardian of the perimeter. It is anticipated, however, that as a new captain of the most powerful ship to safeguard our United Earth, that you may come across heretofore unencountered problems. You control your ship, as well as any probes you launch, by entering commands into the Captain's Control Computer.

PUZZLE: Creature Power - A two part, two player game. You begin with a Frog Hop contest. Each player selects a frog and hopes for his frog to win. The winner gets to play the main puzzle, Creature Power, which comes up next.

DISK 308 - GAME DISK (DS)

FLIMBO: Flimbo's Quest - A demo of a colorful, side-view, scrolling platform game. Very good background graphics detail.

HSDEMO: Helter Skelter - A platform game in which you are a bouncing ball. Bounce to designated platforms to get points, while avoiding the bad guys who are patrolling the other platforms.

PHOTON: An overhead-view scrolling arcade game played with the mouse for one or two players.

VENUS: Venus Flytrap - A demo of a side-view scrolling platform game in which you are a giant metallic laser-firing bug trying to kill other giant metallic bugs. This is not always easy, as some of them are suspended upside down at the top of the screen. Watch out for the Venus Flytrap!

DISK 309 - GAME DISK (DS)

BUBBLES: Bubbles McGee - A Lunar-Lander type game, in which you are a character suspended inside a giant bubble trying to avoid all sorts of nasties. The game requires good timing and reflexes to avoid the numerous hazards and make it to a safe landing.

PILEUP31: Ver 3.1 of this tetris game. Control the falling blocks with a joystick or the arrow

keys. You may select whether to have music or not. Choose between 4 starting levels, 2 skill levels, and 10 joystick speeds.

GOLDENAX: Golden Ax - A demo of a side view scrolling hack-em-and-slash-em arcade game. In this one, you are a blond sword-swinging Amazon.

MSTDRAVE: Jupiter's Masterdrive - A demo of an overhead-view racing game for one or two players.

DISK 310 - GAME DISK (DS)

QUEBOID: The basic aim of the game is to complete each screen by reaching the lift down to the next level as quickly as possible. This will normally involve avoiding various hazards and collecting keys to open doors.

SKULLDIG: Skulldiggery - The object is collect as many diamonds as possible in this Boulder Dash-like game. Watch out for the creeping vines, crazy ghosts, and crystal bats. Of course, eating any fairy cakes you find gives you extra lives.

ST_CONC: ST Concentration - A matching game which is rather addictive. The game consists of a table which is filled with at most 100 cards, face down. The purpose of the game is to match pairs until all the cards are open or face up.

WORD: Word Divisions - A word game derived from the fact that many words in our language, if taken apart, will reveal other words hidden amongst the letters. These words are actually composites of other smaller words and letters.

YAHTZE20: Triple Yahtzee Ver 2.0 - The author states that the game plays just like the non-computerized game Triple Yahtzee. No instructions are given on how to actually play the game, so you will have to figure it out yourself if you are not familiar with the dice game. The program is entirely mouse driven, except when player names are entered from the keyboard, and allows for play by one to six players.

ZOUT: A demo of a side-view single-direction scrolling arcade game. In this one, you are flying through an underwater cavern. Good timing and reflexes are required.

DEAL OF THE MONTH: Beginning with the March ST public domain releases, MilAtari is offering a special deal when you buy all 5 new disks for the month. Regular price is \$17.50, but our special package price is \$14.00, for a savings of \$3.50. Buy now and save!

Bill Janutka

ST Supplemental

UPGRADED DISKS. Those that have purchased these disks previously can bring in their disks and have them upgraded for one dollar each.

DISKS 036-037 DYNACADD 1.76 DEMO (DS, MONO, 1MEG)

This set of disks has been upgraded from DynaCADD 1.5. This is a full featured CAD drawing package but the save feature has been deactivated.

DISK 043 TERMINAL EMULATORS (DSE)

This disk contains HAGTRM33, VANTERM, ST_TERM, MINI_BBS, and the new DTERM which has been added.

NEW DISKS

DISK 046 SCIENTIFIC,EDUCATIONAL(DS)

NORAD: Satellite tracking utility. This program is written in GFA Basic. It loads the data for over 100 satellites and shows their actual location on a map of the world. As time passes the satellites move and leave a track on the map.

MOLEKUEL: Models of molecules and crystal structures are presented in a two color manner so that by using glasses with red and green colored lenses the picture appears in 3D. The program is written in German but is not too hard to understand after playing around with it.

VECTOR: You supply the algebraic or trigonometric equation and the program draws the

graphical curve in either polar or orthogonal coordinates. Great for the young mathematician.

DISK 047 EASTER PICTURES (DS, MONO)

These 40 pictures are in the Image Cat format (.IMG). They are very nicely done and of a quality that could be used to embellish church bulletins or for other Easter functions. They can be easily printed on a dot matrix printer.

Announcing New Monthly SIG

Desktop Publishing Basics

Beginning with the March meeting, I will hold a monthly Desktop Publishing SIG starting with the basics. Topics for the first meeting will include:

Resources for the Beginner

Putting together a one page flyer using Publisher

Questions and Answers

Help with specific problems

Future SIGs will cover more involved documents, as well as other DTP software packages.

Michelle

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